



U.S. Department of Justice

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

**NEW HAMPSHIRE MOTORCYCLE GANG
ASSOCIATE SENTENCED ON WEAPONS CHARGE**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, Gilford Police Chief Evans Juris, N.H. Department of Safety Assistant Commissioner Earl Sweeney, and U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Special Agent in Charge of the Boston Field Division William J. Hoover, announced that Charles A. Braid, DOB: 09/09/72, of Sanbornville, New Hampshire was sentenced today in United States District Court in Concord, New Hampshire for being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm.

Judge Steven McAuliffe sentenced Mr. Braid to serve 2 years (twenty four months) in federal prison to be followed by two years of supervised release. Mr. Braid had pleaded guilty to an information on November 3, 2003, and had been detained since then.

The case resulted from a joint federal, state and local investigation during the Hells Angels World Run in the Lakes Region this summer. On July 27, 2003, Gilford Police officers observed a .45 caliber Ruger pistol in the defendant's truck. Mr. Braid was a prospective member of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Hells Angels participating in the event. It was later learned that the defendant is a convicted felon in Massachusetts.

In commenting on the plea, United States Attorney Colantuono stated, "This is a great example of how Project Safe Neighborhoods works – local, state and federal law enforcement all working together to keep guns out of the hands of convicted criminals."

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public, and training of law enforcement officers about firearm laws.

The case was the result of an investigation by the Gilford (NH) Police Department, the New Hampshire State Police Special Investigations Unit, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives with the assistance of the Belknap County Attorney's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Clyde R.W. Garrigan, the Project Safe Neighborhoods Coordinator for the District of New Hampshire.